

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed March 25, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months set to expire June 25, 2004. With this amendment, claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-10, 17, 20-25, 28-29, 33, and 36-38 have been amended; and claims 10-13, 18-19, and 30-32 have been canceled.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended these claims to remove any indefinite language.

Applicants have amended the claims to describe a plurality of nodes, where each node includes a computer and a disk cache. The system of the present invention includes multiple independent computers. One example of support for these amendments can be found in the specification on page 5 and figure 12.

Applicants have also amended the claims to describe in response to a first computer in a first node initiating a read operation on a block of data, placing an indication on a directory that identifies the first computer as containing a copy of the data in a disk cache that is coupled to this computer. The indication also includes a location in the computer in which a flag associated with the copy of the data is located. The flag indicates whether the copy of the data that is located in the disk cache is valid. Each one of the computers that includes a copy of the data block also includes a flag that indicates whether their copy of the data block is valid.

Responsive to a write operation on the data block, a message is sent to all other computers identified in the directory to reset the computers' flag to indicate that the data stored in their disk cache is invalid without requiring any action by the computers that received the message. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification with reference to figures 12-16 and the accompanying text.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0007439 published by *Gharachorloo*. This rejection, as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

Gharachorloo teaches memory requests in a single computer system that includes multiple processors. *Gharachorloo* does not teach a data block being stored in a disk

cache coupled to one of multiple independent computers. *Gharachorloo* does not teach data being stored in a disk cache. *Gharachorloo* does not teach multiple independent computers that are each coupled to a different disk cache. *Gharachorloo* does not describe a system that includes a plurality of nodes where each node includes a computer and a disk cache.

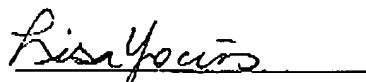
Gharachorloo does not describe a first computer as containing a copy of the data block in the disk cache that is coupled to the computer in a first node. *Gharachorloo* does not describe an indication that identifies a first computer that contains a copy of the data in the disk cache and a location in the first computer in which a flag is located. *Gharachorloo* does not describe the flag indicating whether the data block that is stored in a disk cache is valid.

Gharachorloo does not describe each one of the independent computers that includes a copy of the data block including a flag that indicates whether the copy that is stored in their disk cache is valid. *Gharachorloo* does not teach sending a message to others of the independent computers that are identified in the directory as containing a copy of the data block. *Gharachorloo* does not teach resetting the flag in others of the independent computers such that the flag indicates that the data in the copy of the data block that is stored in the disk cache coupled to the other computers is invalid.

Applicants' claims are believed to be patentably distinct over the prior art because the prior art does not describe, teach, or suggest Applicants' claims. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 06.25.04

Respectfully submitted,



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